(c) The DGCA ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also keeps updating the Civil Aviation Requirements/Circulars to strengthen aviation safety aspect. To provide better airworthiness schedule for enhancement of air safety aspect, Government is running two international training programmes for the officials of DGCA and airlines ***viz.*** Co-operative Development of Operational Safety & Continuing Airworthiness Programme (COSCAP) and European Union-India-Training Programme.

Investigation against Jet Airways

2108. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th July, 2004 and State:

(a) whether the investigation pertaining to Jet Airways regarding alleged legality and status of ownership rights, sources of funding the airlines inspite of heavy losses and financial bungling has been concluded;

(b) if so, the outcome of the findings of the investigation; and

(c) the action taken by Government against the airlines based on the above findings, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter is under examination of the Government.

Multiple Designated Carrier Status

2109. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some initiatives have been taken to prepare an open sky policy that would usher in greater air connectivity between India and the Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof specially the steps taken to ask the Asian nations to grant India the multiple designated carrier status and other related reciprocal rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As part of ASEAN offer, designated airlines of 10 ASEAN countries have been offered, subject to reciprocal rights to the Indian carriers, the facility to operate up to a daily service to/ from four metro destinations in India besides unlimited access to 18 tourists gateways. Similar rights have also been granted to Sri Lanka with the addition that their designated airlines can operate a daily service to two other metros, *i.e.,* Hyderabad and Bangalore. Incorporation of multiple designation clause in our respective Air Services Agreements has also been proposed to all 10 ASEAN countries, Pakistan and Maldives.

Modernisation of Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

2110. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad is being modernized and one more aerobridge is being constructed;

(b) if so, the approximate cost thereof; and

(c) whether Airports Authority of India will add such aerobridges for domestic passengers at other airports also;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate cost of the project planned at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad has not been finalized.

(c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has planned aerobridges also at Varanasi, Srinagar.Amritsar, Lucknow, Udaipur, Guwahati, Patna, Goa, Ahmedabad Nagpur, Gaya, Trichy, Calicut, Coimbatore, Vishakhapatnam and Madurai airports.

Winding up of AAI

2111. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to wind up Airports Authority of India and create autonomous Regional Airport Authorities in the country as a step to give autonomy to the Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and